

**From:** Kyle Tarbet <ktarbet@wwwchamber.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** DES SBCC <sbcc@des.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment on 21-GP1-103 and 136

External Email

March 7, 2022

Members of the Washington State Building Codes Council:

The Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce wishes to express opposition to commercial energy code proposals 21-GP1-103 and 21-GP1-136.

These proposals would unnecessarily increase utility costs for business owners. Using natural gas to heat water and space is efficient and cost effective. Until a viable plan exists to fill the energy needs of our state from dependable and consistent sources, natural gas should not be banned by this Council. Eliminating consumer choice will drive up the cost of other utilities, add to the already high cost of living, and perpetuate the housing shortage. Employers are struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing the cost of their operations at this critical time is ill-advised.

Eliminating natural gas use through these measures will have little to no impact on Washington's emissions inventory while, at the same time, punishing an industry which directly provides thousands of jobs throughout the entire state. Losing these jobs would have devastating consequences to cities and towns in every county.

The Washington State Legislature has already enacted laws which require natural gas providers to implement carbon offset measures and make the infrastructure more environmentally friendly. The State's approach should follow a carefully implemented and comprehensive plan. Piecing together uncoordinated policies from various agencies is irresponsible and doesn't account for the needs for Washingtonians. The Council was created to advise the Legislature on building code issues, not to enact public policy. This method undermines the democratic process and eliminates accountability to the citizens of our State.

Eliminating an employer's option to use natural gas is a mistake. Please show your support for Washington businesses by voting against 21-GP1-103 and 21-GP1-103.

Thank you for your consideration,



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